



Christ for Ukraine

Ray Grayham and Lynn Allison

Spring 2008!

Warm greetings to all from Donetsk, Ukraine! We trust all of you are enjoying a beautiful spring, wherever you may be.

Spring in Donetsk usually begins with a big thaw. Spurred on by regular showers, there is an accompanying explosion of green, necessitating regular yard work to keep things somewhat under control.

It's that time of year to congratulate all graduates and their families (Ray was fortunate enough to be able to attend his niece's (Taylor) graduation on May 16 in Marmaduke, Arkansas). We salute you, graduates, and pray God's richest

blessings on you as you face fresh horizons and new challenges in your lives.



Left: Spring's "big thaw"!

Below: Natasha and Vika cleaning around the church building



Above: Tulips planted beside church building (purchased by Marsha Dean)

Let Us Do Good Unto All Men



Special thanks go out to the ladies of the **Waterford Church of Christ**, Waterford, Michigan and

from the **Mount Juliet (TN) congregation**. Funds contributed by these ladies' classes were recently used to purchase diapers and dairy products for the **Makeevka Specialized Children's Hospital**, a child-care facility that cares for children who are HIV positive.

Like a Vapor

The congregation in Proletarsky recently lost our dear sister **Nina Tretyakova**. She and her husband, Victor, have been long-time, faithful members of the Lord's church. While we miss Nina, we thank God for the time she was with us and for the Christ-like life she lived.



Prayer Request

- > **Tanya** – recovering following surgery & stroke
- > **Olga B** – diabetic, recently had kidney stones
- > **Nadya** – taking cancer treatments
- > **Maria Gavrilovna and Anna** - they have been attending worship and ladies' class but have not made a commitment to Christ yet.



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God Will Forgive

It is always a thrill when children return to the Father. We have had two return to the Lord in the past few months. **Victor Mitrofanov**, the brother of our Sasha Mitrofanov, after many years absence, has returned to the church. Also, **Maria Antonivna** has returned after many years of staying away because of a misunderstanding. She finally realized that the Lord is more important than her feelings. She has been bring a neighbor, also **Maria**, who has been studying the Bible with Ray and Sasha

Mitrofanov. Both Marias have become an important part of our ladies' class.



Ladies Bible Class at Lynn's home. Maria Antonivna and her neighbor, Maria (pictured on far right side)

Vitya Update



It's hard to keep Vitya down. When we were told that he had broken his arm, we went to check on our little friend. When we arrived, however, the cast was already gone and he treated us to a little

break dancing to prove there was no lasting damage done. The good folks at Good Shepherd brag on Vitya and they and we send a great big thank-you out to those of you who help with Vitya's needs financially. The Proletarsky congregation also contributes to help take care of this young man.

"Now more than ever, our 'Food for the Needy' program is helping more than 50 individuals get by."

"Rampant Inflation in Ukraine"



This is a recent headline from the April 8, 2008, 'The Economist' http://www.economist.com/agenda/displaystory.cfm?story_id=10987650&fsrc=RSS and it is absolutely true. Ac-

ording to the article, food prices in March, 2008, compared to the previous March, had risen by 40.7% and over the same period, the price of eggs has risen by an average of 68% and the price of vegetables by 57%. One of our brothers recently remarked that prices are rising like they have yeast in them. Thankfully, pensions have increased somewhat, but pension increases come a lot

less often than price increases! Now more than ever, our 'Food for the Needy' program is helping more than 50 individuals in our community get by. Many of our rural recipients sit patiently by their gates on the last Saturday of the month, waiting for their package of food. Many thanks to those who support this program.

Youth News

Although our original youth group has moved on into "Young Adult" territory, they still enjoy meeting together as work, university and more adult schedules allow. Every last Saturday of the month, we enjoy a get-together with the young people



of the **Budyonovsky congregation** at Lynn's apartment.

Lynn Teaches Ladies at UBI

Lynn was given another opportunity to teach the ladies at the **Ukraine Bible Institute** on the topic, *How to Teach Children*. Several of the ladies have been teaching, but with very little materials and they were delighted to receive a packet of pictures, lesson plans, Bible puzzles, etc. Special emphasis was given to encouraging mothers to bring their pre-schoolers to class and worship. This is not the practice in Ukraine, in spite of those years being so important in developing Christian character.